

Detailed Action

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1 and 5-12 (renumbered as 1-9) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for an apparatus for centering information medium.

• **Claim 1** specifies an apparatus for centering information medium, which requires:

“...a clamping member (15) having an annular circumferential edge (23) for pressing down on the information medium (101) to cause the information medium (101) to abut the peripheral friction sheet (19) on the disc setting surface (3), the clamping member (15) defining an inner recess for receiving the fitting member (4), when the information medium (101) is loaded on the turntable, an upper wall of which inner recess is provided with a magnetic means (48) for attracting the ferrous portion of the movable locking member (40) causing said movable locking member (40) to move from said first position to said second position.”

The prior art of record fails to teach, show or suggest, by either anticipating or rendering obvious, the invention as set forth in the claims of the instant application. Furthermore, a search made does not detect the combined claimed elements as set forth in the pending claims.

Additionally, the reasons for allowance of the claims over the prior art of record is believed to be readily clear, self evident and apparent from the claim language set forth in each of claim 1, when compared and contrasted with the prior art.

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claim 1 are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record as indicated on PTO Form 892.

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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joe Feild, can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mark Blouin/

Primary Examiner of Art Unit 2627

Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627,
January 4, 2010